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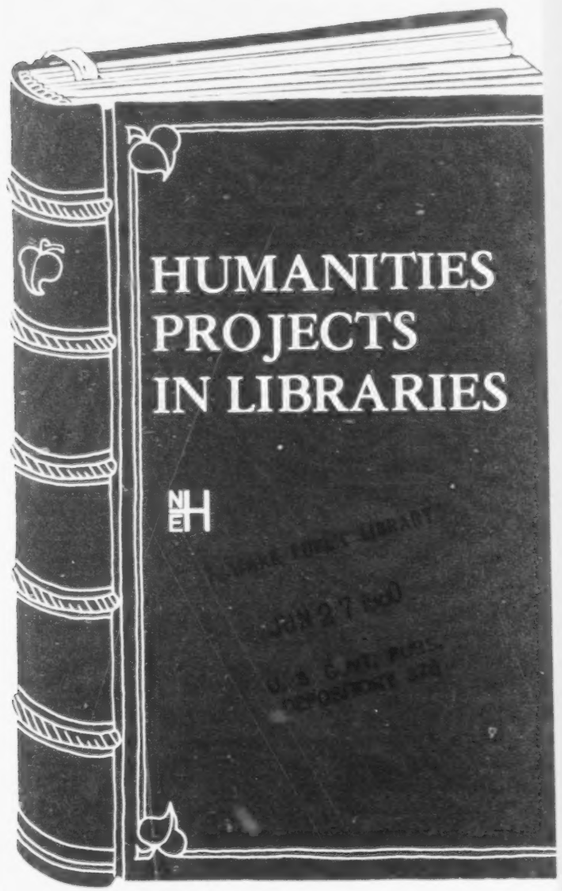
National Endowment for the Humanities

Division of Public Programs



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Goals

The NEH Public Programs Division funds projects in libraries which:

- strengthen library programs that stimulate and respond to public interest in the humanities;
- enhance the ability of library staff to plan and implement these programs;
- increase the public's awareness and use of a library's humanities resources.

Any library or library-related agency serving the adult public may apply, so long as the proposed project is aimed at a general audience. Libraries may submit proposals individually or in cooperation with other community organizations.

NEH—The Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent Federal grantmaking agency created by Congress in 1965 to support projects of research, education and public activity in the humanities.

According to the act which established the Endowment, the humanities include the study of the following: language; linguistics; literature; history; criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of the social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment, with particular attention to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life.

The humanities involve searching for connections and relationships in human history; discovering continuities of thought or custom from one era to another, or from one region of the world to another; analyzing what changes and what remains constant in the stream of individual experience; interpreting the relationship of cultural identity to social structure.

Through its Division of Public Programs, the Endowment seeks to cooperate with libraries in strengthening the general public's knowledge and enjoyment of the humanities.

Some Funded Projects

Listed below are a few examples of projects that have been funded through the Division of Public Programs. A list of funded projects is available upon request.

- The Toledo-Lucas (Ohio) Public Library produced five historical slide programs, accompanied by traveling historical displays, based on the library's local history holdings.
- The Rutland Free Library (Vt.) sponsored a comparative literature program on three related themes: women today, marriage, and rural living in an urban age. Print and non-print materials are featured in a variety of program formats—reading/discussion, lectures, slide shows, readings by Vermont authors.
- The Oklahoma State Library employed the theme of the state's multi-cultural heritage and offered carefully designed program materials, adult programming aids, and consultant services for program development in individual libraries. The project focused on the ethnic groups that settled Oklahoma.

Other NEH Programs

In addition to grants made through the Division of Public Programs, the Endowment supports humanities projects in libraries through the Divisions of Research, Education, and State Programs. Another Endowment program of interest to libraries is the Challenge Grants Program, which provides institutional support.

Challenge Grants help cultural institutions achieve financial stability by encouraging new and increased sources of income through long-range fund raising. Grants are made on a matching basis; for each Federal dollar awarded, grantees must raise at least three non-Federal dollars. Challenge Grants funds and the related matching may be used for such broad purposes as an institution's management or administration, development, acquisitions of books or equipment, expansion or renovation, endowment, and upkeep.

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Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, a project should:

- focus on the humanities or provide the perspective of the humanities on an issue or topic;
- include public participation in project activities;
- aim primarily at an adult out-of-school audience;
- involve the use of specific humanities resources belonging to a library—its books, media, services, and staff, with a view to continued and increased use of these library resources once the project is completed;
- include knowledgeable and appropriate resource people in the planning and implementation of the program such as: librarians, subject specialists, technical experts, and community representatives.

Deadlines—Application Receipt

July 15, 1980
October 15, 1980
January 15, 1981
July 15, 1981

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FOR THE HUMANITIES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROGRAMS
HUMANITIES PROJECTS IN LIBRARIES
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WASHINGTON, D.C.
Telephone (202) 724-0760

Request Form

☐ Please send the guidelines and application forms.

☐ Please send Challenge Grant Program guidelines.

☐ Please send information on *Humanities*.*

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

_____

Phone _____

*The publication *Humanities* is a new bimonthly review which will keep you informed about current developments at the Endowment. It also includes articles on significant issues in the humanities and essays on selected books in various humanities disciplines.

Send to:

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